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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **TAKATA RESTRAINT SYSTEMS, INC.** [US/US]; 2500 Takata Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CLARKE, Curtis** [US/US]; Grand Blanc, MI (US). **CASTRONOVAS, Axel** [US/US]; San Antonio, TX (US). **GAVIN, James** [US/US]; San Antonio, TX (US). **WALSH, Paul** [US/US]; Sylvan Lake, MI (US). **HERNANDEZ, Humberto** [MX/MX]; Monclova Coahuila (MX). **ROJERO, Andres** [MX/MX]; Monclova Coahuila (MX).

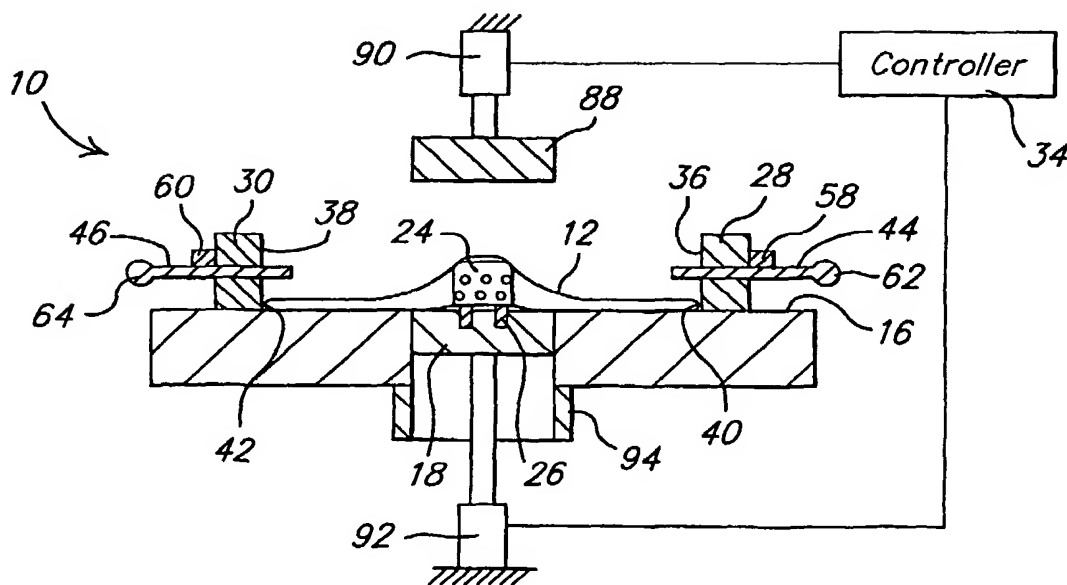
(74) Agents: **DUNN, Robert A.** et al.; Dinnin & Dunn, P.C., 2701 Cambridge Court, Suite 500, Auburn Hills, MI 48326 (US).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FOLDING AN AIR BAG FOR STOWING IN AN AIR BAG MODULE



(57) Abstract: An air bag on a surface is gathered by opposing faces of first and second gathering elements that are moved together from opposing edges of the air bag, and which are adapted so as to limit a height of at least one associated edge portion of the air bag to be less than a height proximate to a center of the resulting gathered air bag. In one aspect, a surface is extended from at least one face, or at least one face is shaped so as to limit the edge portion height upon gathering. In another aspect, at least one gathering element incorporates a holder adapted to hold an edge of the air bag during gathering.

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